

June 9, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael E. Mayfield, Director  
Division of Engineering  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Farouk Eltawila, Director */RA/*  
Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: GENERIC ISSUE 199, "IMPLICATIONS OF UPDATED PROBABILISTIC  
SEISMIC HAZARD ESTIMATES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN UNITED  
STATES"

The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) has reviewed the information on the proposed generic issue submitted in your May 26, 2005, memorandum. The issue addresses the concern for the higher seismic hazard on current nuclear power plants in the Central and Eastern United States, with the 1997 revisions to 10 CFR Part 100.23, "Geologic and Seismic Siting Criteria," and Regulatory Guide 1.165, "Identification and Characterization of Seismic Sources and Determination of Safe Shutdown Earthquake Ground Motion." The proposed issue, titled "Implications of Updated Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Estimates in Central and Eastern United States," has been added to the list of generic issues and has been assigned the number 199 for tracking purposes. However, copies of all background information will be needed before initial screening of the issue can proceed in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Management Directive 6.4, "Generic Issues Program." Accordingly, RES will need to consult with the NRR contact, Goutam Bagchi, on an ongoing basis in the collection and explanation of all available information on the proposed issue. It is expected that the initial screening technical analysis will be completed within three months of receipt of the necessary information from NRR. All questions on the status of GI-199 should be directed to Ronald C. Emrit, 415-6447.

cc: G. Bagchi

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